



I-70 East

Cover Planning

January
2016

I-70 East Final Environmental Impact Statement

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I-70 COVER OVERALL PLANNING PROCESS

CDOT, DENVER, AND DENVER PUBLIC SCHOOLS

NOVEMBER 2013

FRAME WORK PLAN PUBLIC MEETING



During the course of the development of a preferred design for the I-70 East reconstruction, CDOT, Denver and Denver Public Schools engaged the Elyria and Swansea Neighborhood to provide feedback on design options. Following preliminary identification of the Preferred Alternative in the Supplemental Draft EIS, the cover planning process was initiated. The community was invited to participate in the development of a preferred cover concept design.

MARCH 2015

"PLAN YOUR PARK" COMMUNITY WORKSHOP



In March 2015, Community Workshop #1 was held at Swansea Recreation Center to gather public input on the desired uses and organization of the I-70 cover and Swansea Elementary School outdoor space. Following a brief presentation on the history of the project and the common elements of successful open spaces, the community broke up into 10 tables of 6 to 10 people to participate in an interactive "Chip Game".

The purpose of the Chip Game was to allow the community to locate desired uses across the site. Each table was supplied with a requirements list -including playground spaces, multi- purpose field and parking - for Swansea Elementary and a range of programmatic options for space outside of the school grounds. Through conversation and deliberation, each table developed a program and organization of uses for the cover.

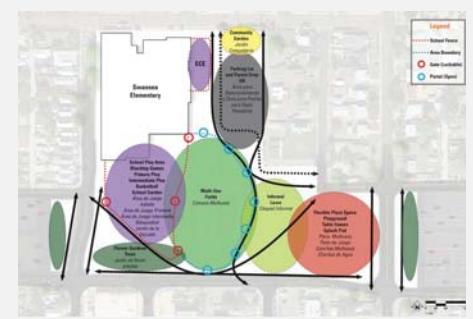
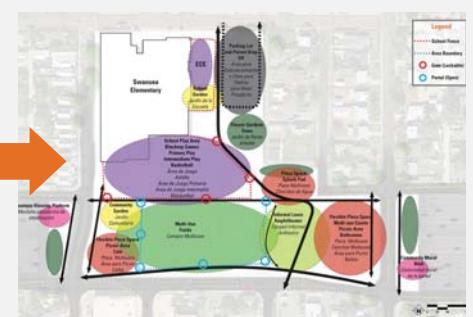
APRIL 2015

PLAN PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT

What **YOU** want on the I-70 Cover ... The Results are **IN!**
Lo que a **USTED** le interesa ver sobre la Cubierta de la I-70 ... **VA TENEMOS** los Resultados!



Following Community Workshop #1, the Community Advisory Committee - comprised of neighborhood residents, business owners and Swansea Elementary personnel - was convened to review the Chip Game results, which were also grouped into three common themes. Based on comments from the Committee, the three themes were further documented to create three Conceptual Framework Options that also introduced concepts about pedestrian circulation to and through the cover and school sites.



I-70 COVER OVERALL PLANNING PROCESS

CDOT, DENVER, AND DENVER PUBLIC SCHOOLS

MAY 2015

CONCEPT DESIGN REFINEMENT



Through direction from the Community Advisory Committee, the three Conceptual Framework Options were further refined into two Preferred Design Alternatives for the I-70 cover. Included as part of the Alternatives were 3-dimensional perspective images that illustrated the proposed design qualities of cover. These Preferred Design Alternatives were again presented to the Community Advisory Committee, and the input and feedback from the Committee was used to further refine the Alternatives.

JUNE 2015

"THE SCORE CARD" COMMUNITY WORKSHOP



In June 2015, Community Workshop #2 was held at Swansea Recreation Center to gather public input on the Preferred Design Alternatives with the goal of using community input to select a Preferred Concept. Following a brief presentation on the history of the effort and details of the two Preferred Design Alternatives, the community broke up into tables of 6 to 8 people to participate in an interactive activity to evaluate the alternatives.

The purpose of the activity was to allow the community to evaluate the Alternatives based on their ability to meet the goals of the cover based on 5 distinct pieces of the plan: the Non-School Program Elements, Circulation, Field & School Yard Configuration, School Fencing Style, and the Clayton and Columbine Street Cover Extensions. Through conversation and deliberation at each table, each community member present at the Workshop was encouraged to fill out a scorecard that reflected the success of each plan relative to the 5 distinct elements.

JULY 2015

PREFERRED CONCEPT CHOSEN

PREFERRED CONCEPT CHOSEN



Following Community Workshop #2, scores from the activity were compiled. In each of the 5 scored categories, Design Alternative 1 was ranked the highest among the two alternatives in meeting the goals of the cover project, although there were also some variations to Alternative 2 that were supported. Based on community feedback, the design team is currently developing a Preferred Conceptual Design for the cover and school site. This plan will be available for community review in August 2015.



I-70 Highway Cover Study

MARCH 4, 2015 COMMUNITY WORKSHOP SUMMARY



MARCH 2015

COMMUNITY WORKSHOP

CDOT and the City and County of Denver joined together to engage the community and gather ideas to explore possibilities for outdoor uses for the cover that will sit over the future I-70 East Highway. A community workshop was held on March 4, 2015 at the Swansea Recreation Center as part of this effort. Approximately 101 people attended the workshop. Additional opportunities to provide input are planned for the future.

The workshop was held from 5:30PM to 7:30PM and included 15 minutes of "Open House" followed by a presentation given by representatives from CDOT, City of Denver, Swansea Elementary, and Design Workshop. The presentation reviewed a project timeline, goals, and introduced the idea of "Shared Space" between the school and the community on the cover.

Following the presentation, community members broke into small groups for a "Design Your Space" game and facilitated discussion. Each group was given a blank base map of the site and a series of true-to-scale "chips," representing different programs and spaces. Each group had to come to a consensus on the types of programs and their arrangement within the site. After all groups had completed the game, four tables out of ten presented their design back to the community.

The outcome of this community workshop helps the design team develop design alternatives that respond to the needs of the school and the desires of the community. Food, child care, and Spanish translation were available to encourage participation from all members of the community.

SMALL GROUP DISCUSSIONS
EXPLORED...

Achieving both the
NEEDS of the SCHOOL
and the
DESIRERS of the COMMUNITY



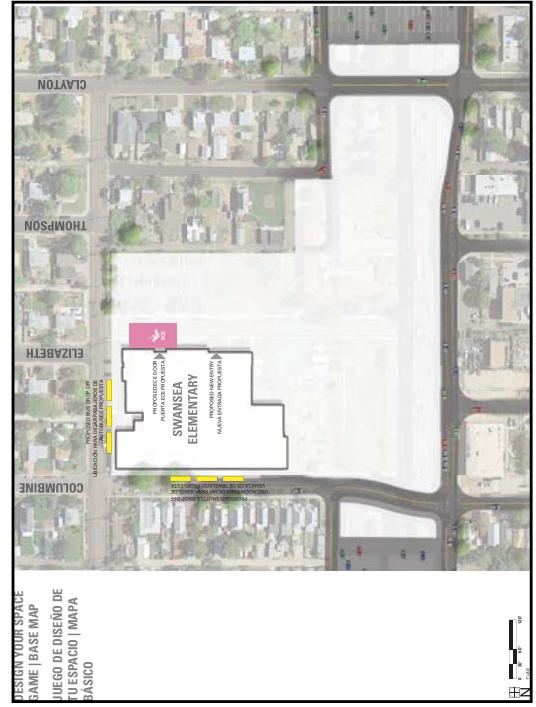
SMALL GROUP DISCUSSIONS
EXPLORED...

COMMUNITY CONCERNNS

- Air Quality
- Duration of Construction
- Funding Sources for Maintenance
- Health of Children
- Parking and Access
- Pollution
- Safety



THE "DESIGN YOUR SPACE" GAME



The "Design Your Space" game is a collaborative exercise that allows community members to suggest which types of facilities, programs, and landscape treatments should be installed on the I-70 East Cover and where they might be located.

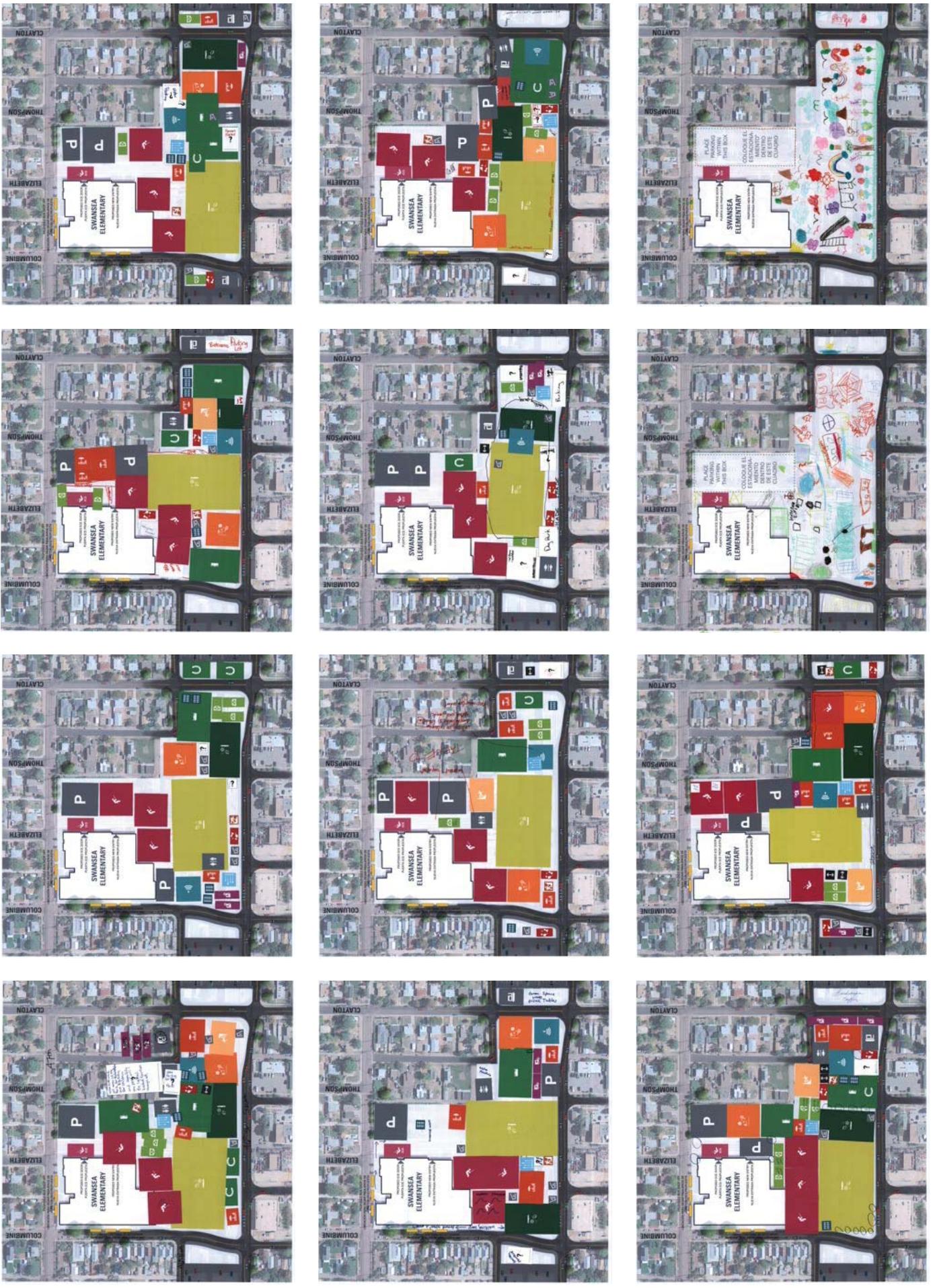
Each group was given a blank base map of the site and a series of true-to-scale "chips," representing different programs and spaces. Rules of the game indicated three school programs that had to played within close proximity to the school building. These included: a multi-use field, playground areas, and parking/drop-off.



All other chips represented optional program types. There were also a number of blank chips which allowed community members to write-in their own ideas.

Groups had 45 minutes to come to a consensus about their design. After the game was complete, four out of the ten tables presented their design to the rest of the community present.

OUTCOMES OF GROUP EXERCISE



TABULATING CHIPS

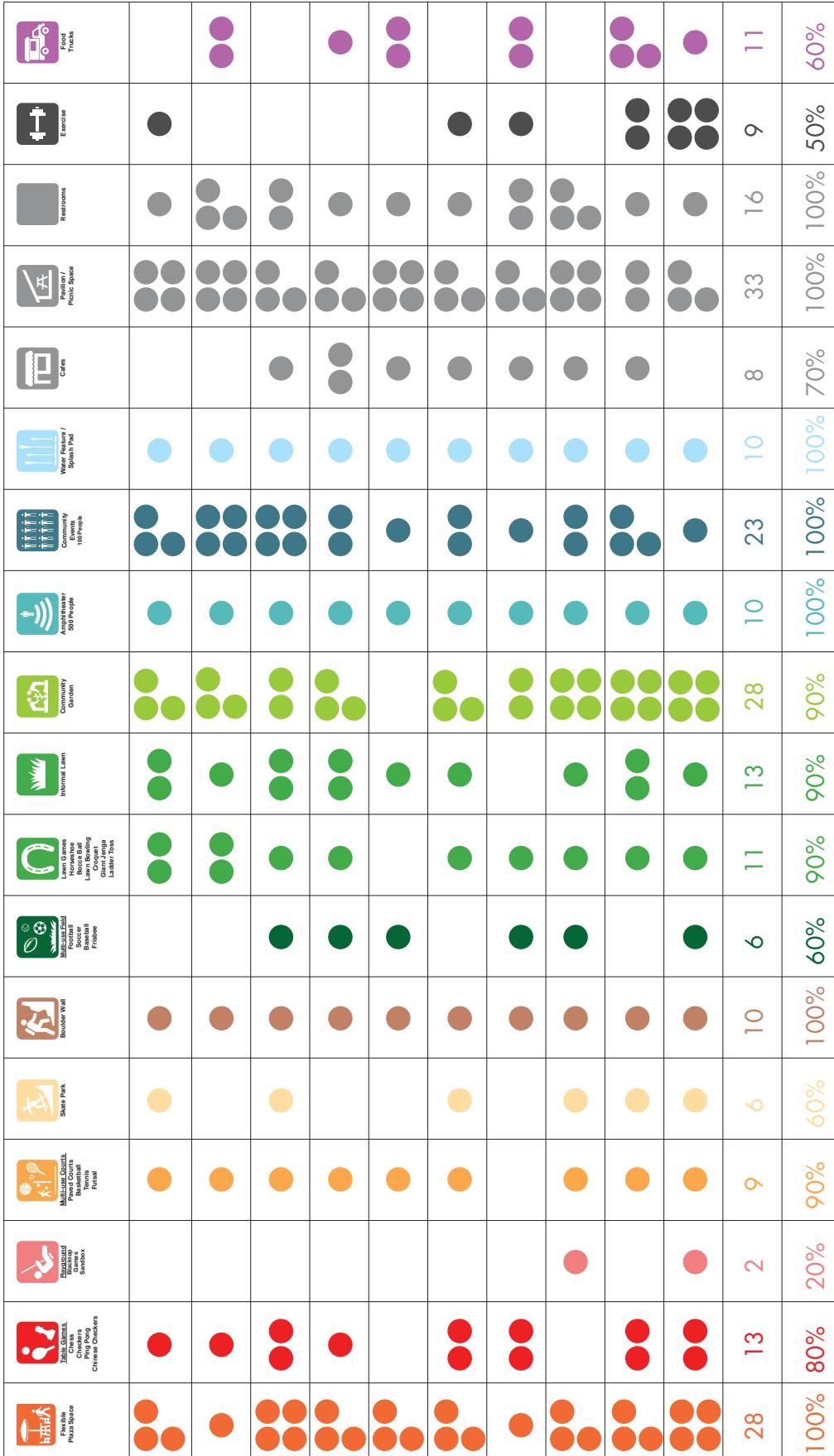


TABLE 1

TABLE 2

TABLE 3

TABLE 4

TABLE 5

TABLE 6

TABLE 7

TABLE 8

TABLE 9

TABLE 10

This diagram tabulates all of the optional chips. As per the rules of the game, a multi-use field, three playgrounds, and parking/drop-off had to be included in every design.

PLAYED AT **EVERY** TABLE



Flexible Plaza
Space



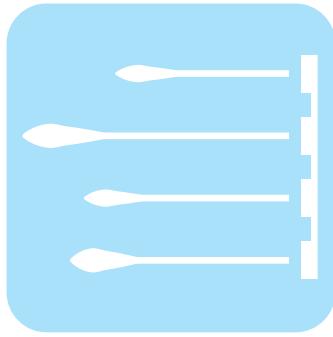
Boulder Wall



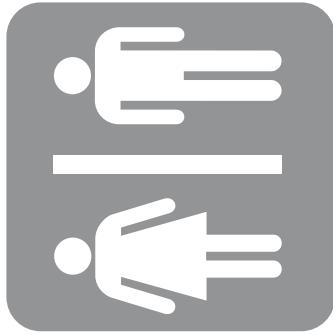
Amphitheater
500 People



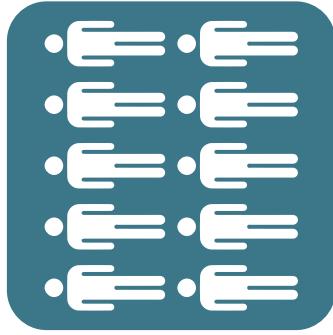
Pavilion /
Picnic Space



Water Feature /
Splash Pad



Restrooms



Community
Events
100 People

5 MOST PLAYED CHIPS

①



Pavilion /
Picnic Space

②



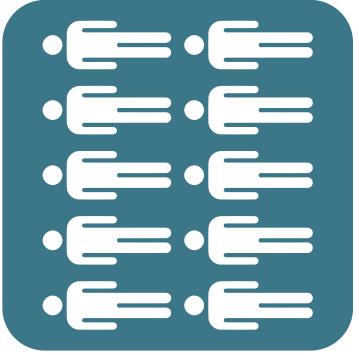
Flexible Plaza
Space

③



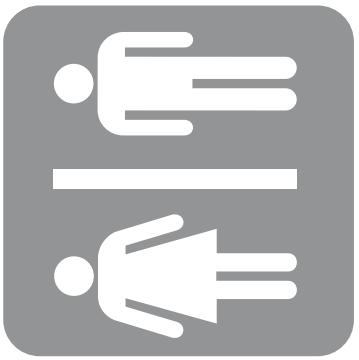
Community
Garden

④



Community
Events
100 People

⑤



Restrooms

5 LEAST PLAYED CHIPS

①



(Additional)
Playground

②



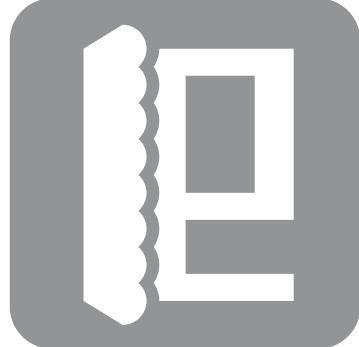
Skate Park

③



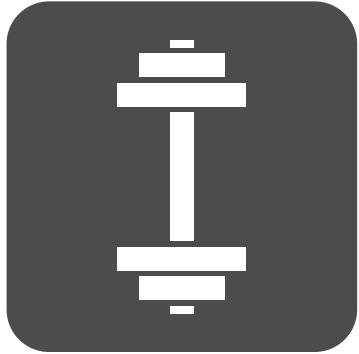
(Additional)
Multi-use Field

④



Cafes

⑤



Exercise

OTHER PROGRAM IDEAS FROM THE COMMUNITY

tot playground

sand volleyball

bike parking

flower garden

picnic areas

trees

drinking fountains

lighting

seating

shade

bike repair station

walking trails

greenhouses

COMMON **THEMES** FOR THE SCHOOL SITE

- School parking and drop-off at the corner of 47th and Thompson Ct.
- Multi-Use Field should be west of Thompson Ct.
- Playgrounds generally located south of the school.
- Gardens generally located near school



OTHER COMMON THEMES

- Strong desire for open and flexible lawn in addition to the school's multi-use field
- East end should be a combination of green and plaza space
- Three main alternatives for multi-use field:
 - Oriented east-west; located on the far west side
 - Oriented east-west; centrally located on the cover
 - Oriented north-south



THANK YOU FOR YOUR INPUT!

As the design for the East I-70 Cover moves forward, we will take all programs under consideration. Please keep in mind that not all programs are possible but we will seek the best combination of resources and amenities that balance the needs of the school with the desires of the community.

I-70 Highway Cover Study

JUNE 9, 2015 COMMUNITY WORKSHOP SUMMARY



JULY 2015

COMMUNITY WORKSHOP

CDOT and the City and County of Denver joined together to engage the community and gather input on two different design alternatives for the I-70 East Highway Cover. Five key elements of each design were discussed, including:

- Non-School Program
- Circulation
- Field and School Yard Configuration
- School Fencing Style
- Clayton + Columbine Street Cover Extensions

The community workshop was held on June 9, 2015 at the Swansea Recreation Center as part of this effort. Approximately 50 people attended the workshop. The results of this community workshop will be used to develop the preferred concept for the highway cover.

The meeting was held from 5:30 to 7:30 and consisted of a 25 minute presentation to explain the elements of design alternatives followed by a facilitated small group exercise. Each participant was given a "score card" and was asked to rank the elements of the two plans from 1-3 (3 being the best use of the site). Participants were also encouraged to ask questions to the facilitator and explain the reasoning for their responses. Based on the feedback provided by the community members, the design team will develop a preferred plan including the elements most desired by the community.

SMALL GROUP DISCUSSIONS EXPLORED...

Two design alternatives and the five elements within each design:

- Non-School Program
- Circulation
- Field and School Yard Configuration
- School Fencing Style
- Clayton + Columbine Street Cover Extensions



THE TWO ALTERNATIVES

ALTERNATIVE 1



ALTERNATIVE 2



NON-SCHOOL PROGRAM



The key differences between Alternative 1 and Alternative 2 were in the user groups that they would attract. Alternative 1 provided a large area for court sports that could include basketball, futsal, and other courts. Alternative 2 was more focused on program for younger children. A "tot-lot" for non-school age children and a series of play hills were provided next to the water feature. Both Alternatives provided formal gardens, flexible plaza space, and an informal lawn in various configurations.

CIRCULATION



Both Alternatives 1 and 2 utilized the same configuration for parking, drop-off, and circulation for school and non-school vehicular and bike facilities. Alternative 1 provided strong and direct north-south and east-west pedestrian circulation link while Alternative 2 provided a more sweeping and experiential circulation pattern. In Alternative 2 the main East-West connection is situated to the south of the multi-purpose field.

FIELD AND SCHOOL YARD CONFIGURATION



ALTERNATIVE 1



ALTERNATIVE 2

Alternative 1 and 2 differed in their field orientation by Alternative 1 providing an east-west orientation and Alternative 2 providing a north-south configuration. The field size remained roughly the same in both sceneries to provide adequate space for the school. Alternative 2 brought lawn closer to the school and pushed the playground onto the cover above the interstate while Alternative 1 kept the school yard closer to the school and off the cover.

SCHOOL FENCING STYLE



ALTERNATIVE 1



ALTERNATIVE 2

Both Alternatives provided the same fenced area and offered large gateways on to the multi-purpose field for the community as well as a secondary fence around the school yard. Alternative 1 provides a very vibrant and playful fence style that became part of the landscape while Alternative 2 provided a more traditional brick and iron fence style. Both of these alternatives provided a vertical gateway structure to mark major entrances into the school yard and a more subdued opening into the multi-purpose fields.

CLAYTON AND COLUMBINE STREET EXTENSIONS

ALTERNATIVE 1

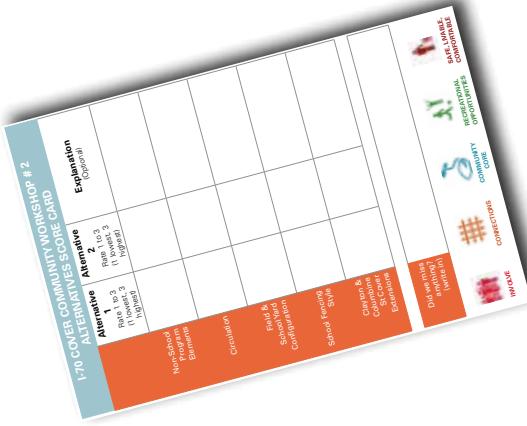


ALTERNATIVE 2



The cover extensions on either side of Clayton and Columbine differ in each alternative in that Alternative 1 provides programmed community space and a western overlook while Alternative 2 provides only an enhanced landscape buffer between the highway and the sidewalk. Both alternatives provide a buffer for sound and a space for tree planting to along the edges.

THE "SCORE CARD"



The "Score Card" was a way for the design team to quantify the opinions of the community members. Each table had the two plan alternatives as well as a packet of visualizations that depicted the differences between the two alternatives.

The goal was not to pick one design or the other but to identify and clarify the elements from each design that the community liked.

Individuals had 45 minutes to tally their thoughts about which elements were the best from each design. After the game was complete, four representatives presented key take aways how their table's discussion.



OUTCOMES OF GROUP EXERCISE

I-70 COVER COMMUNITY WORKSHOP # 2 ALTERNATIVES		Explanation (Optional)
Alternative 1	Alternative 2	
Rate 1 to 3 (1 lowest, 3 highest)	Rate 1 to 3 (1 lowest, 3 highest)	
47	47	
Non-School Program Elements		
47	39	
Circulation		
54	41	
Field & School Yard Configuration		
55	49	
School Fencing Style		
60	34	
Clayton & Columbine St Cover Extensions		
Did we miss anything? (write in)		
		 SAFE, LIVABLE, COMFORTABLE
		 RECREATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES
		 COMMUNITY CORE
		 CONNECTIONS
		 INVOLVE

ALTERNATIVE 1 | BASIS OF THE PREFERRED ALTERNATIVE



Overall Alternative 1 ranked higher between the two. It will serve a base for the development of the preferred concept. The score card also allowed for people to comment freely. That, as well as the open discussion and notes gathered from the public meeting, provided insight that will help take elements from each plan and bring them forward into the preferred concept. Two major elements that the community desired was that the space accommodate both young children's programming as well as teen and young adult programming. There was also a desire for a "softer" more inviting circulation pattern.

SNAPSHOT OF COMMENTS

"The tot-lot needs to be bigger. We need more activities for kids around here."

"We should use renewable materials. Provide recycling as well as trash cans."

"This needs to be the flavor of the community."

"Move the tot-lot and play hills from Alternative 2 into Alternative 1."

"We need more than one drinking fountain."

SNAP SHOT OF COMMENTS

"The elderly population needs space as well. Provide more shade for walking."

"What about wall ball? Provide plenty of Shade and more restrooms."

"I like the staging area for food carts."

"Provide spaces for art throughout the park, not just on the ends"

"I like the over look in Option 1 and the tower in Option 2, views to the mountains and the city would be great."

MAJOR WORDS USED THROUGHOUT

tot playground

bike parking

bathrooms

drinking fountains

lighting

shade

walking trails

handball

picnic areas

trees

multi-generational

bike facilities

safety

COMMON THEMES

- Desire for East-West orientation of the multi-use field
- The circulation for Alternative 1 is more inviting for the community
- Provide activities for people of all ages. Activities for children, seniors, and teens
- Shade for walking paths and play areas is very important
- Integrate community art into the entire design
- Views to the city and the mountains are important
- Integrate bike facilities into the design
- Provide a multifunctional recreation space
- The design should have as much program as it can to best use the space

NEXT STEPS

The design team will take the suggestions and comments from this community workshop and develop a preferred concept. We will be developing one preferred plan to reflect what we heard from you!

THANK YOU FOR YOUR INPUT!

Community preferences, described previously in this attachment, were taken into consideration and another draft plan was developed (shown here).

I-70 East Cover Master Plan

This design will continue to be refined with stakeholder input.

LEGEND

- ① SCHOOL PARKING AND DROP OFF
- ② PLAY COURTS AND PLAYGROUNDS
- ③ SECURITY FENCING
- ④ COLUMBINE STREET GARDENS
- ⑤ MULTI-PURPOSE FIELD
- ⑥ COMMUNITY GATEWAY PLAZA
- ⑦ INTERACTIVE WATER FEATURE
- ⑧ TOT-LOT AND PLAY HILL
- ⑨ AMPHITHEATRE AND OPEN LAWN
- ⑩ COURT SPORTS PLAZA
- ⑪ 46TH AVENUE PROMENADE
- ⑫ COLUMBINE STREET AND CLAYTON STREET COVER EXTENSIONS



